

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W  
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R 200901Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL MILAN  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5451

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS - JUNE 12-13 PARTIAL LOCAL  
ELECTIONS.

1. COMO, CREMONA, AND TINY MARIANO COMENSE OF MILAN CONSULAR  
DISTRICT WERE AMONG FIVE ITALIAN TOWNS WHICH HELD WARD  
COUNCIL ELECTIONS JUNE 12 AND 13. WARD COUNCILS, CREATED  
IN APRIL 1976, CAN MAKE DECISIONS BINDING ON CITY ADMIN-  
ISTRATION REGARDING PUBLIC WORKS AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

2. IN COMO, INDUSTRIAL AND TOURIST TOWN OF 100,000, DC  
MADE BIGGEST GAIN (2.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS, TO 45 PERCENT)  
OVER 1976 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. PCI AND PSI MOVED AHEAD  
SLIGHTLY, EACH GAINING ABOUT HALF PERCENTAGE POINT AND  
ENDING UP WITH 23 AND 11 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. PSDI AND  
PLI, WHICH HAD BOTH LOST HEAVILY HERE IN LAST YEAR'S ELEC-  
TIONS, GAINED A BIT (0.49 AND 0.97 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY).  
ONLY PRI AND MSI FELL BACK FROM YEAR AGO (1.5 AND 3.3  
PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY). 75 PERCENT OF COMO VOTERS WENT TO  
POLLS.

3. DC'S GOOD SHOWING IN COMO DID NOT PREVENT FRESHLY-  
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RECONSTITUTED CITY EXECUTIVE--OLD ONE RESIGNED SEVERAL  
WEEKS AGO--FROM GIVING LARGER ROLE TO COMMUNISTS THAN  
PREVIOUSLY. (SEE MILAN'S 0995.) ALTHOUGH FORMER DC  
MAYOR STAYED ON AND PRESIDES OVER DC, PSI, AND PSDI  
EXECUTIVE, LATTER WILL NOW BE SUPPORTED BY MAJORITY WHICH  
ALSO INCLUDES PCI AND WHOSE JOB IT WILL BE COLLEGIALLY  
TO DRAFT PROGRAM.

4. IN CREMONA, WHERE 78 PERCENT VOTED IN NINE WARDS, DC (38 PERCENT) AND PCI (37) REMAINED IN NECK-AND-NECK POSITION BUT DC ADVANCED SLIGHTLY MORE (1.5 PERCENT) THAN DID COMMUNISTS (0.8). DESPITE DC WIN IN TERMS OF POPULAR VOTE, HOWEVER, PCI GOT MORE SEATS (53 AS AGAINST 59 FOR PCI). PSI GAINED SLIGHTLY (UP FRACTION OF POINT TO 12.7 PERCENT) AS DID LIBERALS (FROM 1.2 TO 2.1 PERCENT) AND DP (FROM 1.3 TO 1.5). OTHERS LOST.

5. MSI DID BADLY IN BOTH COMO AND CREMONA, GETTING ONLY ABOVE HALF OF LAST YEAR'S VOTE.

6. CONCLUSION. VOTING RESULTS CONFIRMED 1976 TENDENCY TOWARD DC-PCI POLARIZATION (NEITHER PARTY FAILED TO GAIN) AND AGAIN APPEARS TO SHOW DC INCREASES TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM NEO-FASCIST SLICE OF ELECTORATE. IN CREMONA, FOR EXAMPLE, MSI FAILED TO RUN LISTS IN 5 OF 9 WARDS, PRECISE PLACES WHERE DC (AND PLI) DID BEST. PSI, ALREADY IN DIMINISHED STATE, HELD FIRM AND, ACCORDING TO CREMONA PSI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, WERE RELIEVED TO HAVE DONE SO. FINALLY, IN BOTH COMO AND CREMONA, AT LEAST, POLITICIANS WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT VERY RESPECTABLE VOTER TURNOUT. THEY HAD DURING CAMPAIGN FEARED THAT WARD ELECTIONS WOULD BE OF LESS INTEREST TO VOTERS THAN PROVED CASE. DC SECRETARY I COMO CONCLUDES THAT HAD THESE BEEN NATIONAL ELECTIONS WITH HIGHER TURNOUT, DC WOULD HAVE DONE PROPORTIONALLY BETTER, PERHAPS APPROACHING 50 PERCENT OF VOTE WHILE BETTER DISCIPLINED PCI WOULD HAVE DONE PROPORTIONALLY LESS WELL.

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7. SETTLEMENT OF COMO CITY COUNCIL CRISIS FOLLOWED RECEIPT OF RETURNS. AGAIN DC SATISFIED WITH SOLUTION FORCED BY PSI TO BRING PCI INTO MAJORITY (AND THEREFORE CONSULTED AS MAJORITY DECIDES POLICY) BUT NOT INTO EXECUTIVE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS LOMBARDY REGIONAL FORMULA THAT SEEMS TO BE SPREADING IN THIS AREA.FINA

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## Message Attributes

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